

John Mark - The Man, His Method + His Mission  
Several passages Mark 10:45; 14:50-52; Acts 12:24-25; Acts 13:13; Acts 15:36-40. — There are many traditions that have developed concerning the apostles over the centuries. Some could be believed to be true because of the acceptance of early church. Others are less reliable. Take John Mark for example! 1 tradition is that called 'Stumpfinger'. Some say he was the founder of Christianity in Alexandria not sure. Some say he died a martyr's death in Alexandria and his body was buried in Venice Italy. None of these can be proven... it is critical for us to look to the Bible to get a reliable picture of the human penmen of the book we will be studying over the following weeks

## I. John Mark - The Man

A. Name - John - (Gift of God) Mark - (Surname - Hammer) Acts 12:12  
Mother Mary of Jerusalem (Place of worship) Col 4:10 Nephew of Barnabas.

Mark had a role in the scenes of the early church! Young man in the youth group. Full of Promise + enthusiasm  
B. Shaky Start - We find in Acts 13 the <sup>exciting</sup> onset of the first missionary journey led by Saul + Barnabas but there must have been a small band of accompanying men for we find only 13 verses later, John Mark departing for Jerusalem. He abandoned Paul + Barnabas This must have been very troubling, Acts 15:37, 2nd Journey, Barn suggests John Mark, Paul - No! Parted ways. John Mark a cause of contention between Christians, Also lost sight of John Mark in Rome (Acts 28:16) What do we learn? Ask him!

C. Salvages Servant - My dad always loved a message from Dr Hyles' "Knocked down but not..." For we find Paul & John Mark reconciled later. Mark even served as Paul's aid. Philemon 24 & Col 4:10. Paul even goes so far as in the last hour of his life asking for Mark 2 Tim 4:9-11. Paul fully reinstates John Mark. He must have seen God ~~once~~ again working in His life. And in the end the H.S. calls on him to write one of the 4 Gospels of Christ. Amazing Grace! Failure is never Final! E. Lutzer Failure is the back door of Success. D. Sympathizing Saint - How did this come about? Not laid out in scripture. We can only speculate. The Apostle Peter plays a role. 1 Peter 5:13 calls him son, Peter who was no stranger to failure, may have set out to restore, instrumentally in Mark's life. Most attribute Mark's relationship w/ Peter was that which enabled the intimate portrait of Christ. 2 Peter 1:15-16 Peter intended to .... Most believe Mark's Gospel is really the memory of Peter's First Statement about Jesus. Justin Martyr chronicles Mark 14:50-53 Mark's modest signature. Remember 1 Cor 1:4. Peter comforted Mark <sup>applied</sup> II. John Mark and His Method

A. So in the Gospel of Mark we find this faithful Servant portraying the Faithful servant. As we make our way through the book we will see he has a Method. B. Vibrantly Distinct - Now each Gospel has a distinct feature to them. Most agree - Matthew - the Kingship of Christ, Luke - Humanity of Christ, John - Deity of Christ, Mark the Servanthood of Christ. 4 Faces of Christ in Rev & Eze Lion, Man, Eagle, Ox. Mark the Servant setting forth the Servant of Jehovah. This is seen by the things left out. 1) No Genealogy 2) No nativity 3) Deeds emphasized



Philemon 1:24 Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.

Colossians 4:10 Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)

2 Timothy 4:9-12 Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me: For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry. And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus.

The earliest statement about the Gospel of Mark was written by a man called Papius, the Bishop of Hierapolis in AD 140. He said this: 'Mark became Peter's interpreter and wrote accurately all that he remembered'.

Justin Martyr, an early church father writing in AD 150, referred to Mark - that is, the Gospel of Mark - as the memoirs of Peter.

Ireaneus, writing in AD 185, called Mark 'the disciple and interpreter of Peter' - and he recorded that 'the second Gospel' of Mark consisted of what Peter actually preached in his sermons about Christ. There is an interesting parallel between the outline of the Gospel of Mark and Peter's sermon preaching Christ in Acts 10.

Mark 14:50-52 And they all forsook him, and fled. And there followed him a certain young man, having a linen cloth cast about his naked body; and the young men laid hold on him: And he left the linen cloth, and fled from them naked.

Matthew 8:25 And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish.	Mark 4:38 And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awoke him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?
Matthew 17:4 Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.	Mark 9:5 And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.
Matthew 26:22 And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?	Mark 14:19 And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, Is it I? and another said, Is it I?

our words (19 miracles) vs. (4 Parables all deal with service)  
4) No Sermon on Mount - Kings Manifesto 5) No sentence of Judgment upon Israel, 6) Omission of divine titles Christ called King once and that in Mockery. Regal Title "Son of David" only once  
7) Addressed as Master in 11 passages where others say Lord  
No Dying Thief, No King or No Lord. This is not because he doesn't believe but H.S. given Him responsibility of <sup>Christ's servant</sup> Servant C. Very Direct - This is a high octane fast paced portrayal of Christ. The Keyword is Straightway from here to there to there. Immediately immediately... the word and is used over and over again to connect one scene to another to another. If Matthew portrays the King of all Kings, Luke the Man of all men, John the God of very God, then Mark portrays the servant of all servants. Busy being about the Father's Business. This Brings us to...

### III. John Mark + His Message

A. I've always had Biblical inspiration explained to me as a sailing ship + the wind. Man of God is the sailing vessel the H.G. fills the sails and the resulting movement is divine inspiration. We have seen the Man + Method now

B. Evangelize The Sinner - The purpose of Mark's gospel is to make the gospel accessible to Gentiles. It is a missionary handbook. A lot of the "insider" language is omitted. Uses Roman Terms and Roman words. He explains Aramaic words. Old Test. quotations are rare B/C Gentiles not familiar. Gospel of Mark is an apologetic of the Cross of Christ. Present the resurrection and Jesus' death. Cross must a tragic accident



but God's perfect plan. It was a stumbling block to Jew + Gentile that God brought his Kingdom thru the death of his Servant. Messiah - live as servant - die as criminal. How could a Savior triumph thru a death of shame and reproach? 1 Cor 1:18 Mark sets out the explanation why? Cross is still a stumbling block. Mustens can't see why God would... they say replaced. Swear the only Mark-Jesus not merely Good man, prophet, but Son of God →

C. Encourage The Saint - If it is true that Peter supplied the memory to Mark then chances are that this took place in Rome. A great time of persecution Nero in AD 64. Mark is relaying how that the servant of God suffered + how he suffered, and it was fore ordained suffering and thru suffering came redemption. Like their master they would suffer as well. Mark is telling this church in the midst of the fires of persecution that they are simply in line to suffer like the one that they worship suffered. Same today in hostile world. Jesus is the Christ of the Crisis! He is active + working in the midst of crisis Mark uses the historical present Tense 15 times thru book Jesus comes not come; says not said; heals not healed. He came not to be served; but to serve. He still serves us in crisis. There are more miracles in Mark than any other. He is active busy, moving doing. Carey + I 10 yrs <sup>seen God more!</sup>

IV. What does it mean to us? R Kent Hughes story  
What will Mark's Gospel make of us? Servants Grippo by Master's example. Truth is many of us want to see some Christ, we just don't want to be treated as a servant. Mark learned what perfect service was through the Perfect Servant. Born

2 Corinthians 1:4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

....and He must die, he must be handed to wicked sinners, he must be slain if we are to be saved.

R. Kent Hughes in his commentary on Mark tells a story about one of the world renowned scholars of the classics, Dr E .V. Rieu. He completed a great translation of Homer into modern English for Penguin Classics. In his late 60s, Kent Hughes tells the story that, being an agnostic at the end of his career, the publisher, Penguin publishers, came to him and approached him again and asked him to translate the Gospels. Can you imagine this: an agnostic classical scholar being asked to translate Matthew, Mark, Luke and John! Now, when Rieu's son heard about this, he was heard to say: 'It will be interesting to see what father will make of the four Gospels', then he paused, 'It will be even more interesting to see what the four Gospels make of father'. He didn't have to wonder very long - within a year's time E.V. Rieu, the lifelong agnostic, responded to the Gospels. As he translated them he faced Christ, and he became a committed Christian. His story is a testimony to the transforming power of opening up of God's word.

His were the planets and stars in the sky, His were the valleys and mountains on high, His all earth's riches, from pole unto pole, But He became poor to ransom my soul'.

Are we willing to stoop and become a servant?